GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:986
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2001
DECLARATION OF RUBBER AS AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS
N.N. KRISHNADAS

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

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(a) whether the Government have filed its negotiating proposals with WTO to declare rubber and coir as an agricultural product; (

(b) if so, the details thereof; (

(c) the countries which have extended their support towards our efforts; and (

(d) the present status of the proposal?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY)

(a) & (b) : India in its negotiating proposals filed in January 2001 in WTO has proposed rationalization of the product coverage of Agreement on Agriculture to include agricultural commodities such as rubber and coir.

(c) & (d) : As mandated under Article 20 of the Agreement on Agriculture of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), negotiations for further liberalisation in world trade in agriculture which commenced in the year 2000 are ongoing. These negotiations are taking place in the Special Sessions of the WTO Committee on Agriculture at Geneva wherein the proposals submitted by various Member countries are being discussed.